

REMARKS

Claims 17, 18, 20-23, 28-31 and 34-52 are pending in the above-identified application. Claims 17 and 18 have been amended to improve the form thereof. Claims 50-52 have been amended to correct typographical errors.

Allowable Claims

It is noted that claims 17, 18, 20-23, 28-31 and 34-46 were indicated to be in allowable form in the Notice of Allowance dated September 13, 2000. These claims, as well as claims 47-52, are supported by the disclosure of the present application, as well as the disclosure of the Germany Priority Applicant (DE 197 01 446.1 filed January 17, 1997 in Germany) as explained in detail in the accompanying Letter Suggesting Interference under 37 CFR 41.202.

Request for Personal Interview with Examiner

Applicant's representative respectfully requests a personal interview with Patent Examiner assigned to this application in order to review the accompany Letter Suggesting Interference under 37 CFR 41.202. Applicant's representative will attempt to contact the Examiner in the near future.

If any questions arise in the above matters, please contact Applicant's representative, Andrew D. Meikle (Reg. No. 32,868), in the Washington Metropolitan Area at the phone number listed below.

Dated: August 14, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

By  _____

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